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Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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O 261949Z SEP 75 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4944

S E C R E T MOSCOW 13815

NODIS

FOR ROBINSON FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: EAGR, UR
SUBJ: US-USSR GRAIN AND OIL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 227371, MOSCOW 13631

1. PATOLICHEV REQUESTED THAT I COME BY AT 9:15 THIS EVENING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON DRAFTS SUPPLIED SEPTEMBER 24. HE RECEIVED ME ALONE, WITH ONLY HIS NOTE-TAKER PRESENT. HE BEGAN BY SAYING THAT YOUR ARRIVAL SEPTEMBER 30 WOULD BE CONVENIENT AND HE LOOKED FORWARD TO RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH YOU THEN.

2. TURNING TO THE US DRAFT AGREEMENT ON GRAINS, HE SAID THAT THIS HAD BEEN STUDIED CAREFULLY AND THAT A SOVIET DRAFT HAD BEEN PREPARED WHICH INCLUDES ALL THE ACCEPTABLE PROVISIONS OF THE US DRAFT, AND WHICH TAKES ACCOUNT OF SOVIET LEGISLATION, US-SOVIET AGREEMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE. (TEXT OF SOVIET DRAFT FOLLOWS SEPTEL.)

3. AS FOR THE U.S. DRAFT AGREEMENT ON OIL, HE SAID THAT THIS HAD ALSO BEEN STUDIED EXTREMELY CAREFULLY. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS STILL REMAIN SUCH AS PRICING FORMULA, SELECTION OF PRIVATE FIRMS, AND TAX AND TARIFF TREATMENT. FOR THIS REASON, SOVIETS UNABLE AT THIS TIME TO PREPARE COUNTER DRAFT. HOWEVER, HE IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE A "MOST
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ATTENTIVE ANALYSIS" OF THESE QUESTIONS WHEN YOU RETURN.

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4. PATOLICHEV THEN REPEATED HIS EARLIER COMMENTS ON THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENTS ARE KNOWN ONLY TO AN EXTREMELY NARROW GROUP OF TOP SOVIET LEADERS, AND THAT THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE DRAFTS SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. I ASSURED HIM THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE SOVIET VIEW ON THIS MATTER, BUT POINTED OUT THAT WE WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT YOU WERE RETURNING TO MOSCOW TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. HE INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WAS UNAVOIDABLE, BUT REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE DETAILS.

5. IN CONCLUSION, PATOLOCHEV ASKED HOW LONG YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO STAY. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS NOT INFORMED ON THIS POINT BUT ASSUMED THAT THE LENGTH OF YOUR STAY WOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT IF YOU HAVE ANY PARTICULAR DEISRES REGARDING RELAXATION OR EXCURSIONS WHILE YOU ARE HERE HE WILL BE DELIGHTED TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS.
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